GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4487
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2001
BAN ON INDIAN NEWS
ASHOK KUMAR PATEL;BODAKUNTI VENKATESHWARLU;GUNIPATI RAMAIAH;KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU;T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan Government had blocked the access of Indian High Commission in Pakistan to the transmission of Indian news channels and the cable transmitting Indian news channels to the High Commission was disconnected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have registered protest with the Government of Pakistan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Pakistan Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a)-(d) On 23rd September 2001, reportedly under direction from the military regime in Pakistan, the Karachi-based Cable Operators Association announced that they would block distribution of Indian TV news channels on the grounds that these channels were indulging in anti-Pakistan propaganda. The Pakistan authorities, however, denied that they had issued any such instructions. Following the announcement by the Karachi association, Cable Operator Associations in Lahore and Islamabad also cut off distribution of Indian TV news channels. As a result of these steps, officials in the Indian High Commission, Islamabad, were unable to view certain Indian news channels for some time. Since then, however, alternative arrangements have been made to ensure that our officials in the High Commission of India, Islamabad, have full access to Indian news and information.